Social Risk Management System

923. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HOMEAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International agencies have asked the Asian countries, including India, to put in place a Social Risk Mangement System, to protect the poor from various natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the suggestions made by them; and

(cj the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per information available, no International Agency has made any specific request to put in place a Social Risk Management System, to protect the poor from various natural calamities. However, in the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held from 18-22 January, 2005 at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan under the auspices of the United Nationas, the Member States were called upon to strengthen the implementation of the social safety-net mechanisms to assist the poor people affected by disasters. The Government of India already have many programmes and schemes to protect the poor people and the vulnerable sections of the society from various natural calamities.

Extortion of money by Insurgent Groups in NE

924. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOMEAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that ULFA and other insurgent groups active in North-East are extorting money;

' (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of these insurgent groups are also involved in smuggling activities, including drugs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Central and the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b): Reports indicate that various insurgent outfits in the North-East are engaged in extortion activities. The outfits have established well-knit networks for such collections.